Expansion of civil aviation industry

711. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India at the Annual General Meeting of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) held at Paris this year, indicated an elaborate plan for expansion of civil aviation industry both in the public and private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating plans for expansion of industry in the domestic and international sector to unshackle it from the restrictive policies of the past; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Speaking at the IATA Annual General Meeting at Paris this year, the Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Civil Aviation presented a broad outline of the developments and liberalization in the civil aviation sector in India. As regards the liberalization of the sector, the following significant steps have already been taken:

(i) The Foreign Director Investment limits in 'Air Transport Services (Domestic Airlines)' increased from 40% to 49%. However, the NRIs' have been allowed 100% FDI.

(ii) Private scheduled carriers with five years experience in domestic sector and having fleet size of twenty aircrafts permitted to operate on international routes.

(iii) Liberal policy in the exchange of capacity entitlement/traffic rights adopted by the Government which paved the way for more foreign airlines to operate to/from India.

(iv) Amendment of the various outdated provisions of Aircraft Rules to keep the provisions abreast with the international standards and developments in the civil aviation sector.

(v) Tourist charter guidelines liberalized.

(vi) Fleet expansion plans of Air India/Indian Airlines approved.

(vii) Restructuring of Delhi and Mumbai airport and work on development of Greenfield airports at Bangalore and Hyderabad.

(viii) Upgradation/expansion/development of airports is undertaken depending upon traffic potential, requirement of airline operators and need of travelling people.

Security clearance for airlines

712. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details pertaining to the requirement for private commercial airlines to obtain 'security clearance' from Government;

(b) the details of security clearance issued to airlines operating commercial flights in India showing the date of commencement of commercial flight operation by each;

(c) whether security clearance pertaining to the Promoters and Directors of M/s Jet Air had been pending to be issued;

(d) if so, details thereof, indicating the reasons for its remaining pending;

(e) the basis of permitting the said Airlines to operate despite non-issuance of security clearance;

(f) whether the same have since been issued; and

(g) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Scheduled operators permit to an airline is issued on meeting the minimum requirements as contained in Civil Aviation Requirements Section 3 Series C Part II. At the time of grant of initial No Objection Certificate, the applicant firm has to submit to the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the particulars of the Directors and Chairman/ CEO for security clearance as per the prescribed format. Furthermore, any change in the Board of Directors or Chairman/CEO at any time is to be intimated to the Ministry of Civil Aviation and DGCA. New Chairman and Directors are to be appointed only after their security clearance.